



Billing Code 3410-DM-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**[Docket No.FSIS-2017-0037]**

**Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex**

**Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

AGENCY: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), are sponsoring a public meeting on September 1, 2017. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will take place in Kampala, Uganda, October 2-6, 2017. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the AMS recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity

to obtain background information on the 20th Session of the CCFFV and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 1, 2017, from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the USDA, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, 0752, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 20th Session of the CCFFV will be accessible via the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

Dorian Lafond, the U.S. Delegate to the 20th Session of the CCFFV, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address: [dorian.lafond@usda.gov](mailto:dorian.lafond@usda.gov).

CALL-IN-NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 20th Session of the CCFFV by conference call, please use the following call-in-number listed:

Call in Number: 1-888-844-9904

Access Code: 5126092

REGISTRATION:

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by e-mailing [kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov) by August 29, 2017. Early registration is encouraged as it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will take place in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through security screening systems. Persons who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 20TH SESSION OF CCFFV

CONTACT: Dorian LaFond, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruits and Vegetables Division, Mail Stop 0235, Room 2086, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 690-4944, Fax: (202) 720-0016, E-mail: [dorian.lafond@usda.gov](mailto:dorian.lafond@usda.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Kenneth Lowery, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 690-4042, Fax: (202) 720-3157, E-mail: [Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCFFV is responsible for elaborating worldwide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables and for consulting with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.

The Committee is hosted by Mexico.

#### Issues to be discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 20th Session of the CCFFV will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters arising from Codex and other Committees;
- Matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Draft Standard for Aubergines;

- Draft Standard for Garlic;
- Draft Standard for Kiwifruit;
- Draft Standard for Ware Potatoes;
- Proposed Draft Standard for Fresh Date;
- Proposals for new work on Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables;
- Proposed layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables (Outstanding issues); and
- Discussion paper on Glossary of terms used in the Layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat before to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

#### Public Meeting

At the September 1, 2017, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the

20th Session of the CCFFV, Dorian LaFond (see ADDRESSES).

Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of CCFFV.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this Federal Register publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register> .

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe> . Options range from

recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

#### USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

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#### How to File a Complaint of Discrimination

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Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:

Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Director, Office of Adjudication

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442

E-mail: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC on August 22, 2017.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius

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